

672 Run In Cohasset Roadrace

By Judith Epstein

The dank and drizzly day did not deter the 672 runners from competing in Cohasset's annual Roadrace By-The-Sea Sunday, sponsored by Cohasset Jaycees and AAU sanctioned. Nor did the day discourage a tremendous turnout of Cohasset residents and people from all over the state and beyond.

The winner of the race was Vincent Fleming of Melrose and the Greater Boston track club with a time of 30.02. The Class I (under 18) winner was Richard Robinson of Duxbury at 32:20; the Masters (over 40) winner was John Hurley of Stoughton with a time of 35 minutes, and the first woman to finish the race was Sarah Linsley of Cohasset at 36:51.

The starting line on Elm Street brewed with runners and onlooking crowds, all impatiently awaiting Roy Fitzsimmons' starting gun to go off at 1 p.m. When the "GO!" signal was sounded, a blur of colors seemed to charge down the street, as runners donned in togs of rainbow hues for the first of the 10,000 meter or 6.2 mile race.

The race was run along Elm Street, Margin Street, Atlantic Avenue, Jerusalem Road, Forrest Avenue, North Main Street and Highland Avenue to the finish line in front of the Town Hall.

The spectators watched ad-

miringly as the running throng made its way off into the grey afternoon and resolved to give up smoking and take part themselves next year. They wended their way back to the Town Hall to await the finish, some holding umbrellas, some stop-watches.

People milled around either side of Highland Avenue in front of the Town Hall, photographers waited eagerly by the finish line, and youngsters held bets among themselves as to whose father would come in first. Everyone seemed to suffer from cold toes, judging from the number of foot-stomping dances that went on.

The excitement increased when Roy Fitzsimmons announced the runners' approach onto North Main Street, the last leg of the race. At 2 second past 1:30 p.m., tall and dark Vinny Fleming ran easily and almost nonchalantly through the ribbon at the finish line.

Almost a minute later Craig Bloodgood of Duxbury came in second with a time of 31 min-

utes even. Bradford Hurst of Salem, New Hampshire, came in third at 31:18.

From then on, other runners, obviously pitting themselves against each other, charged side-by-side to the finish. Fitzsimmons handed each runner a wooden stick with the number of the place he or she had finished. This number would later enable the runner to find his/her time on the computed list posted in the Town Hall auditorium.

Although 635 runners were officially entered in the race, 671 runners finished. Fitzsimmons commented later that a cap would have to be placed on the number of runners competing next year.

National class runner Fleming said of the race, "Tremendous, beautiful, I just wanted a lead so I could enjoy the course." Fleming added that he could have run the race faster (he averaged under five minutes a mile), if there had been any one running with him.

Second place Bloodgood said, "I was just starting to warm up at the end." He said he wasn't trying to win the race and noted the difficulty of keeping up with a runner like Fleming.

There were repeated comments by runners on the beauty of the course and no one seemed to mind the rawness of the weather. (Ron Emmons did admit he was a little cold by the sea.)

Gold, silver and bronze medals went to the first finishers in each class, awarded by Sel-

ectman Mary Jeanette Murray. Others placing were: Under 18 — second, Keith Paton, Duxbury; third, Greg Collins; Over 40 — second, Mike Kerins of Boston; third, Al Donaghy of North Abington.

The first 200 runners received T-shirts, gifts from the Jaycees. The first man and woman runners won running suits donated by The Runnery in Hanover; gift certificates were given by almost every merchant in town, as were dinners for two from the Red Lion Inn, the Greenhouse and Hugo's Lighthouse.



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